



The President's Daily Brief

April 17, 1974

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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Page 1 [redacted] Israel [redacted]
[redacted]

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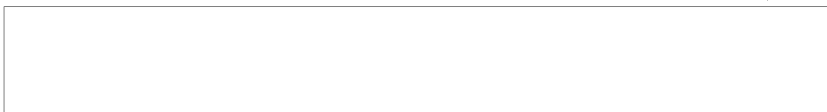
No details are yet available on the accord announced yesterday for the sale of Mirage F-1 jets to Kuwait, but previous reporting indicates that the Kuwaitis wanted at least 16 of these planes. (Page 4)

Notes on USSR - Indian Ocean and Iraq appear on Page 5.

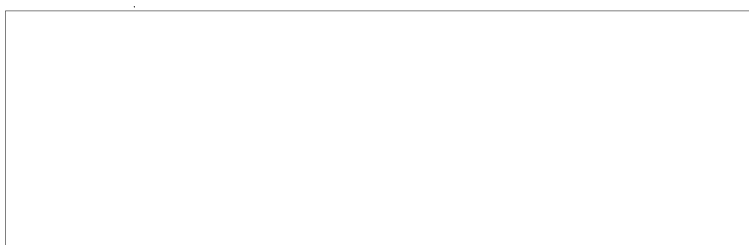
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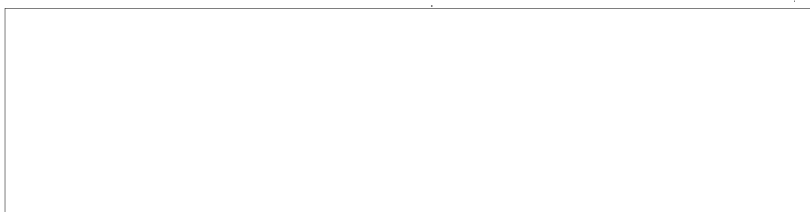
ISRAEL



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Israel and Syria yesterday continued to exchange tank and artillery fire on the Syrian front, but at a level substantially lower than over the past weekend. Israeli aircraft flew reconnaissance missions and defensive patrols over the Golan Heights. Damascus claimed that fighting was continuing on Mount Hermon.

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SYRIA-ISRAEL

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Officials in Damascus are worrying that the Israeli cabinet crisis will delay conclusion of a disengagement accord.

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NATIONALIST CHINA - JAPAN

Nationalist Chinese Premier Chiang Ching-kuo has threatened to close Taiwan's air space to Japanese civil flights if Tokyo signs an agreement for airline links with Peking. The Nationalist Air Force has been placed on alert and instructed to be prepared to intercept--but not to shoot down--Japanese planes, if such a treaty is signed.

Premier Chiang long ago wrote off Japanese Prime Minister Tanaka as too pro-Peking. Chiang, encouraged by anti-Tanaka right-wingers in Japan's Liberal Democratic Party, now appears to be gambling that the Tanaka government will be forced to suspend the negotiations or perhaps resign. Such an estimate overstates both Nationalist China's influence in Japan and the strength of the Liberal Democratic Party's right wing. The affair is, however, increasing anti-Japanese feeling on Taiwan and will make compromise difficult.

Tanaka, for his part, is not likely to change his course. He plans signature of the agreement within about a week, and its prompt submission to the Diet for ratification, which seems assured. It does not appear that key factional leaders in the Liberal Democratic Party will use the issue to challenge Tanaka's leadership.

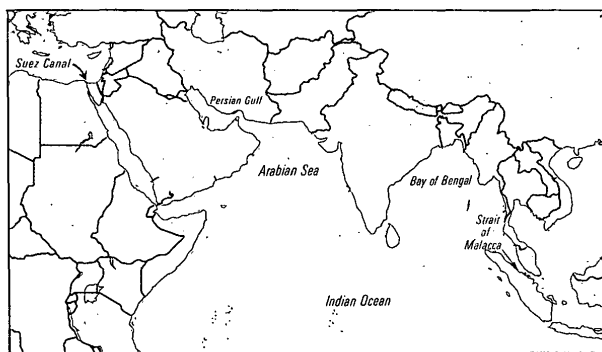
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KUWAIT-FRANCE

No details are yet available on the accord announced yesterday for the sale of Mirage F-1 jets to Kuwait, but previous reporting indicates that the Kuwaitis wanted at least 16 of these planes.

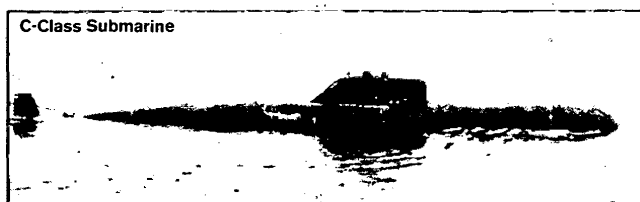
The French aircraft may have been selected over competing US F-5 and A-7 planes because Paris attached no restrictions on its use. The Kuwaitis do not want to open themselves to the charge that they have bought arms that cannot be used to help other Arabs against countries like Israel or Iran. Kuwait is still interested in procuring the Franco-British Jaguar aircraft because of its ground support capability. Deliveries of the Mirages are probably at least a year away because of the need to train Kuwaiti pilots.

Kuwait is the first Persian Gulf country to buy the Mirage F-1, although Paris has sold other Mirage aircraft to Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi. In addition to the F-1s, Paris sold helicopters to Kuwait in February and ground forces equipment several years ago.



**Soviet Submarines
Leave
the
Indian Ocean**

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NOTES

USSR - Indian Ocean: Two Soviet nuclear-powered submarines that have been in the Indian Ocean since late February are being transferred from the Soviet Northern Fleet to the Pacific Fleet. The submarines-- a C-class cruise-missile unit and a V-class torpedo-attack boat--are about to pass through the Strait of Malacca and will be the first submarines of their classes to be assigned to the Pacific Fleet. While in the Indian Ocean, the submarines conducted operations in the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea. The C-class apparently trailed the US carrier Kitty Hawk for about a week in the Arabian Sea.

Iraq: The tempo of fighting between the Kurds and the government is gradually accelerating. Communist diplomats in Baghdad, who support the government's position, predict that an offensive will be launched in late April. As many as 65,000 government troops may already be in the north. Baghdad is sending reinforcements and has even begun calling up reserves. Rumors in Baghdad of US material support for the Kurds could lead to trouble for American interests in Iraq.

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